

YOUR WEEK IN CHINA'S CAPITAL

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Elder Migrants Isolated in the Big City

The vulnerable "laonianpiao" live without social insurance or medical care. **Page 4**



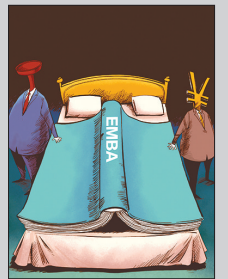
Terror of Tax Comes to China's E-commerce

Complaints about Taobao have won its stores the attention of tax agents. **Page 5**



Enrollment Implodes for EMBA Classes

A government crackdown may not be to blame for the EMBA collapse. **Page 6**



Law Clueless About Scooters

Electric scooters have been creeping onto Beijing's streets since late 2014. But the wheeled transportation devices aren't entirely legal.

Scooters seem trapped between vehicles and toys, making it difficult for police to figure out who is at fault when they collide with cars and trucks. **Page 2**



Subway Line 1 Switches to Energy-Saving System

BY DIAO DIAO

Line 1 of the Beijing subway network is being switched to a new signal system next month that will allow intelligent driving, the *Legal Evening News* reported.

The new system is based on Moving Block Technology that reduces acute acceleration and the need for emergency braking.

Wang Xiaoyong, engineer of the new system, said the technology allows for real-time train tracking. "The old system

only allowed trains to get within 200 to 300 meters. The new system doesn't have a distance limit between two trains as long as they are within safe operating distance and speed," Wang said.

In rail transportation, turns and track changes are a bigger problem than speed. "When the train turns around or changes a route, the rails have to change. The change time of the rails is fixed, and the new system optimizes the program to react faster and shave

30 percent off the time," Wang said.

Subway drivers will only have to watch for other problems under the new automatic system. It also ensures a more accurate position of the train doors when stopping, as compared with the current system, which accepts a 40-centimeter margin of error.

The new technology is already in use on the Airport Express Line in Beijing and Line 10 of the Shanghai subway network. ■

CHINESE STOCK INDEXES

SSE (Shanghai)

Close	Change	YTD
3,682.10	▲21.37 (0.58%)	+13.84%

SZSE (Shenzhen)

Close	Change	YTD
12,712.98	▼44.12 (0.35%)	+15.42%

HSI (Hong Kong)

Close	Change	YTD
24,497.08	▼31.15 (0.13%)	+4.27%

Accurate to market close on March 26, 2015



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Student Funds Publication of Her Food Safety Research

BY LYNNE WANG

After a decade of media investigation into carcinogenic cooking oils, tainted baby formula and illegal additives, it's hardly a surprise that China's residents don't trust the nation's food industry.

But whether they actually know what's going on in the counterfeit-laden, dishonest Chinese food industry is another question. And that's what Chen Qiaoling, a postgraduate student at Tsinghua University, hoped to expose.

After two years of field investigation in the China's farms, wholesale markets, supermarkets, food chains and workshops, Chen published *The File on China Food Safety* on March 8: at her own expense.

It cost more than 100,000 yuan for Chen

to get her research out to the public.

"This book is the combination of news coverage regarding food scandals and corresponding academic research. While I know it is impossible to resolve the ubiquitous problems in our shameful food industry, what I want is to let the people know where the dangers are and what is happening in this era," Chen said.

In 2011, Chen started a catering business with her classmates that gave her behind-the-scenes access to food industry information. What she found was more unsettling than any scandal she ever read in the news, she said.

What shocked her most was the process used to make stinky tofu, a popular snack that has its origins in the Qing Dynasty.



Photos by CFP & ifeng.com

She found that the fermented "milk" used to soak the tofu is a combination of fecal wastewater, rotten pork and highly toxic pesticides used to kill off parasites.

"This is not just a food safety issue. Serving such 'food' is spitting on basic human dignity and society itself," Chen said.

Chen's work mirrors a study done by Harvey Wiley that called the 1990s "the most shameful era in the history of America."

"Wiley and his colleagues did a series of reports exposing the numerous tricks used to produce fake food. Their work brought the issue to public attention and promoted the establishment of many food safety mechanisms at that time," Chen said. "I think China needs someone to do the same thing." ■

Electric Scooters Land in Legal Gray Area

BY DIAO DIAO

The surge in the popularity of self-balancing, single wheel electric scooters is causing problems for traffic police. When users collide with cars, buses and cyclists, it can be hard to sort out responsibility since the new transportation tools do not fall under any Chinese vehicular category.

Two-wheel and single wheel electric scooters began appearing on Beijing streets in late 2014. One of the first recorded accidents involved a man surnamed Zhao being struck by a driver surnamed Du at an intersection in Fengtai District.

Zhao fractured several bones and lost his scooter in the accident. However, police were reluctant to comply with his request for compensation since the electric scooter was not recognized as a legal transportation device.

Most electric scooters weigh 10 kilograms and run on electricity. They are much more portable than bicycles and can reach speeds of 20 kilometers per hour.

As the scooters are neither legal vehicles nor non-motorized vehicles, the scooters fall into a gray area in the Law on Road Traffic Safety. They may be categorized as gliding tools, but gliding tools such as skateboards and roller skates cannot be used for transport.

In cities throughout Guangdong province, vehicles such as electric scooters cannot be used on public roads.

That Guangzhou Transportation Corps said electric scooters cannot be used on the road because their steering and brake systems do not meet national safety standards. Local traffic police in Guangzhou are authorized to confiscate any scooters that are used illegally on the road.

But netizens say Beijing's dense population can benefit from such electric vehicles. Most say that electric scooters should be treated as non-motorized vehicles like the bicycles. ■

Fashionista Busted for Swapping Fakes, Luxury Goods in her Returns

BY LYNNE WANG

Police in Changning, Shanghai arrested a 25-year-old office worker on March 11 for abusing e-commerce return policies to send back fake luxury goods while amassing a collection of authentic goods worth more than 190,000 yuan.

The woman, surnamed Zhou, returned more than 20 counterfeit products inside the luxury products' original packaging to JD.com since 2013. Her returns were marked as "no reason given" in the system.

"Zhou was an frequent buyer on our site and most of her purchases were luxury products like brand-name shoes and bags, sunglasses and belts worth more than 10,000 yuan according to our backend system," said by Wei Jun, manager of Loss Prevention Rotation at JD.com's eastern branch.

The company began collecting evi-



Photo by baidu.com

dence of Zhou's deception in September 2014. Her orders were given a special flag in the system, and JD.com staff recorded the packing and unpacking process of each order to prove their case.

"Based on the videos provided by JD.com, we found all evidence of wrong doing pointed to Zhou," said Zhu Yanbin, a detective at the Changning police station.

Zhu arrested Zhou outside her neighborhood when he witnessed her returning home with several of the luxury products she claimed to have sent back.

Zhou, a graduate of Tongji University with a degree in Japanese, was employed by a foreign company in Shanghai.

"I didn't grow up in an affluent family, but I always wanted to own what my friends and colleagues had," Zhou said.

"I bought genuine articles on JD.com and purchased counterfeits on Taobao at a much lower price. It was hard to stop after I saw how easy it was to make the switch first time," she said.

The right to return a product without reason within seven days of online purchase was codified into Chinese commercial law by the Industrial and Commercial Bureau in March 2014. The option is offered by all Chinese e-commerce platforms. ■



Photo by CFP

Slow Pension Reform Leaves Migrant Workers Behind

BY YANG XIN

After four consecutive years of disclosing the number of migrant workers older than 50, the National Bureau of Statistics has suspended its reporting practice.

The first generation of migrant workers – those who headed for towns and cities before 1990 – are today older than 50.

Official data from the Bureau showed that there were more than 40 million such workers in 2013, and that they constituted 15 percent of total migrant worker workforce in China. The figure was 1.2 million more than in 2012, and there was no indication it

would contract in 2014.

The vulnerable group has been a popular topic of public sympathy. In a report by *The Paper*, aging migrant workers were said to “keep their strength up by eating meat” and “dye their hair black to evade age checks.”

Kai County, Chongqing is the nation's largest exporter of migrant labor. There were 535,000 from that county in 2014, and 15 percent were older than 50. In Fengcun Village, half the villagers are migrant workers.

The aging workforce has made calls for pensions and benefits ever louder.

Chen Longyuan is one 66-year-old Fengcun villager who began working in a metal factory in Guangdong province in 1990. In 2012, the factory fired him on account of his age after paying into his pension fund for 12 years. After going through miles of red tapes, Chen finally made up for the last three years of retirement insurance payments and was able to acquire his pension.

But most people in his village are not so lucky.

Luo Jianguo, director of the Fengcun Village Committee, said Chen was the only one of the village's 300 old migrant workers who was granted his pension. The remainder can only receive 80 yuan per month as “urban and rural residents’ endowment insurance.”

To some extent, these older migrant workers are suffering for their ignorance. Few were aware of the importance of signing up for pension insurance and most were too mobile to guarantee its continuity.

Research shows that the more than 95 percent of the migrant workers in Guangdong province have to give up on their insurance.

But migrant workers are increasingly included in urban workers pension schemes. In the last two years, the national government released two important measures. One combines the rural social endowment insurance system with the endowment insurance system for urban residents, and the other transfers migrant workers’ urban and rural resident insurance to worker endowment insurance as long as they have paid in for 15 years.

But the real beneficiaries of these two changes are younger migrant workers who still have a hope to pay into the pension insurance for another 15 years. ■

Photos by CFP & Beijing News



Boy Boosts Van for a Joy Ride in Zhoukou, Henan

Highway police in Zhoukou, Henan province found a van parked illegally in a service area on the evening of March 9. The vehicle was driven by Zhou Xiaoming (pseudonym), a 10-year-old boy who had been missing for two days.

The van was returned to its owner. Due to a Chinese law that prohibits minors from receiving any legal punishment, Zhou was “criticized” and returned to his home.

(Tencent News)

Man Chops Off Wife's Hands for Cyber-Cheating

A 31-year-old man surnamed Chen chopped off his wife's hands with a kitchen cleaver when a domestic dispute went to the next level on March 11.

Police rushed the woman, surnamed Jiang, to a hospital for treatment. Chen has been detained by police.

The couple's feud reportedly had its roots in a dispute over their involvement in an illegal pyramid scheme in 2014. The discovery that she had been having “online affairs” with men in chat rooms triggered the night's violent episode.

(Ifeng)

Jaded Courier Exacts Revenge on Haidian Client

A woman surnamed Tian was surprised when she began receiving calls about her prostitution services this February in Haidian District. The calls were all the more embarrassing since she is not working a prostitute.

Callers told her they found her number scrawled in the service door of a building under renovation. After a few days of sleuthing, Tian tracked the prank back to a courier she had complained about in February.

Tian hired the courier to send a package of shoes, cigarettes and a pen to her friend. The agent opened the bag for inspection at the door and refused to properly repack the contents. The cigarettes ultimately arrived smashed and Tian filed a complaint that cost the courier his yearly bonus.

Police mediated the dispute between Tian and the courier. She originally asked for 50,000 yuan, but the courier could only pay 10,000 yuan since he is supporting both his elderly parents and children.

(Tencent News)

Chinese Tourists Flock to Laos for Tiger Meat

Resorts in northwestern Laos are putting protected wildlife on their menus to attract Chinese tourists, the London-based Environmental Investigation Agency reported.

The report was confirmed by an NGO in Vietnam, which posted photos of restaurants offering fried tiger, bear paws and pangolins.

Endangered animal products are often available for sale in Laos, Myanmar and Thailand. Increased Chinese tourism to Southeast Asia has meant an increased demand for illegal meats.

Many Chinese people believe that consuming rare animal meats and body parts can promote health or serve as an aphrodisiac.

(Tencent News)

Residential Buildings Harbor Capsule Cells

BY LI RUIQI

Liu Zixia, a resident of the Zhujiang Oasis in Chaoyang District, turned his neighbor in to the police for harboring more than 20 people in an adjacent flat on March 11. The 150-square-meter apartment had been divided into 20 “capsules” priced 68 to 80 yuan per day.

For neighbors, the capsule apartment was a noise source and security risk. “They were not even asked to check in with their ID,” Liu said.

Zhujiang Oasis is not the only community housing a capsule network in Beijing. Similar setups have been found in the Jiutai 2000 Community and Building 2 of the Huaweiili Panjiayuan Bridge.

Free of any identifying signs, the capsule homes hide unobserved inside ordinary residential buildings throughout the city. But an undercover investigation by the *Beijing News*

revealed all were franchises of the Shandong-based Yoge Hotel Company.

Anyone with an apartment measuring 150 to 200 square meters can become a franchisee, said the receptionist at the Jiutai 2000 Community branch who refused to be named.

“The business license costs next to nothing, and neither the Industrial and Commercial Bureau nor the fire service will pay any special attention to residential buildings,” she said.

The receptionist at the Huaweiili branch advised *Beijing News’* reporter to contact the head office in Shandong province when asked to show business license and fire security certificate.

Sun Zhihai, manager of the Zhujiang Oasis branch, said the capsule rooms kept a constant occupancy rate of 70 percent in



the first quarter of 2015 and took in 20,000 yuan a month – all without paying tax.

The Per Capita Living Space Regulation of Beijing requires all legally rented unites to offer a minimum of 5 square meters of space for each person and prohibits sharing that space between more than two people.

While touted as an “innovation in Chinese youth hostels,” capsule cells are much less comfortable than those found abroad.

“Shabby curtains are all that protect the privacy of each cabin's occupant. The air is so poor that we have to keep the ventilator on all night,” said a resident of the Jiutai 2000 Community capsule apartment who would only be identified as Lily. ■



Photo by CFP

Elderly Migrants Face Isolation, Lack of Care

BY DIAO DIAO

For several decades, young people have been coming to Beijing to seek work and chase their dreams. For many such *beipiao*, the capital is an endless source of cultural conflict and economic hardship.

But even as new generations arrive, past generations are aging – as are their parents.

The “laonianpiao” phenomenon dates back to 2000 in a sketch comedy performance by Zhao Benshan and Song Dandan during CCTV’s Spring Festival Gala. In the short bit, Zhao played a 60-year-old man from the countryside who came to live with his son in this city.

Although the farcical dialogue proved popular at the time, the reality it presented has become the norm in China’s top-tier cities where young workers strug-

gle to support aging parents who are cut off from the city’s social safety nets.

Reunion

Statistics from the sixth national census show that the Shanghai metro area is home to more than 160,000 laonianpiao.

In the Dongfang Lanting Community of Jinhua District, Zhejiang province, more than 60 percent of the occupants were older than 50 and 30 percent were older than 60; fewer than a fifth of them were registered as local residents.

A survey by the Social Investigation Center at *China Youth Daily* in 2011 found that more than 60 percent of those interviewed nationwide knew of several laonianpiao living in their neighborhood.

“When we talk about laonianpiao

we are really talking about late-life migrants,” said Li Shan, a scholar at Dalian Maritime University.

Li said there are three reasons old people migrate from the countryside to the big city: to rely on their children, to raise their grandchildren or support their children, to modernize or to return to their birthplace.

“Most of the old migrants fall into the first two categories,” Li said.

Problems and Voices

For most of the aging migrants, a new city poses a host of problems on its own even without the headaches of hukou limitations.

A survey by *China Youth Daily* in 2011 found that more than 70 percent of laonianpiao felt socially isolated; 60 per-

cent worried about their lack of access to medical care and social welfare; and almost all reported experiencing domestic troubles that were amplified by language barriers.

Zhou Chunfa, a professor of sociology at Zhejiang Normal University, said it is especially difficult for the old to leave their hometowns and even harder for them to be involved in a new environment due to regional differences and culture shock.

In spite of these problems, most still chose to take the challenge and be with their grandchildren.

Xu Huici, a 70-year-old woman who came to Beijing in 2013, said that she wanted to go back to her small village in Shenyang. However, with her son and daughter-in-law working full time jobs there was no one else to care for their baby.

“I missed the time when I could talk to my sister when I was at home. My husband is 76 years old and didn’t want to come. I am accustomed to the life here, but I still feel isolated,” she said.

Xu’s granddaughter is two years old now and all her life has been taking care of the baby.

Ma Xiuqin in Yancheng, Jiangsu province is 52 years old. She came from the north to take care of her grandchild who is now attending kindergarten. The biggest barrier for her has been the dialect.

“I wanted to join some community activities but I couldn’t handle the people. Northerners and southerners just have different cultural backgrounds,” Ma said. “But the time I spend with my grandchild makes up for everything.”

But the challenges can be more physical.

For Feng Liping, the high expense of her medical care in Shenyang, Liaoning province is more pressing than any feelings of loneliness or fights with her daughter-in-law.

“It cost 1,500 yuan just to deal with a toothache,” she said. She postponed treatment until Spring Festival, when she was able to visit a barefoot doctor in her village.

No Easy Solution

The lack of care available to laonianpiao is a reminder of China’s overall poor social services.

Preschool daycare services in China have something to do with the laonianpiao phenomenon.

China’s preschool education starts at three years old, but there are very few organizations or childcare centers able to provide preschool care for infants or toddlers. Those that offer such services usually charge exorbitant fees.

Most families have no choice but to rely on grandparents for support.

There have also been numerous scandals in the elder care market, with poorly trained nurses caught abusing elderly residents. Most retirees prefer to live the rest of their lives at home.

Li Shan said that although a daycare system does need to be developed, that may not help alleviate the burden brought by laonianpiao.

She suggested creating community networks for old migrants to help match up people who can communicate or who share the same interests. The government could also play a role by offering them volunteer opportunities to get involved in the new community.

“It’s easier for old migrants to communicate because most of them have similar experiences and feelings about being in a new city,” Li said. ■

E-commerce Sites Battle with Tax Reform

BY LI RUIQI

A series of consumer reports that blasted Alibaba for quality control problems on its Taobao.com marketplace caught the attention of the Industrial and Commercial Bureau on March 15.

But not because the bureau aimed to right China's unruly e-commerce industry: it smelled money.

For more than a decade, Taobao.com has thrived as low-cost marketplace that brings together all the world's goods. Anyone can open a Taobao store without the need for physical property or a business license. The low barrier to entry made Taobao the world's largest bazaar for cheap products.

But the new taxation effort threatens to kill that ecosystem. To pay tax, shop owners would have to open licensed businesses and raise their costs.

"Even if the reform can improve the quality of goods and make Taobao.com a more standardized e-commerce platform, Alibaba is bound to lose a chunk of its user base and sales volume," said Zhang Zhengyuan, an economic analyst.

But compared to short-term profits, what Taobao.com seems to need is a radical change in structure.

Mess Behind Prosperity

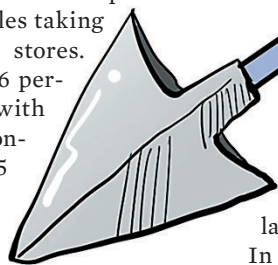
An investigation by the National Industrial and Commercial Bureau found that 40 percent of the goods sold online in January were counterfeit.

The last year has seen a sharp decline in the number of sales taking place at brick-and-mortar stores. Online shopping grew by 56 percent over the same period with 41 percent of the sales concentrated on Taobao and 35 percent on JD.com. Half of the complaints involved inferior products.

While Amazon was condemned for selling pirate books and fake crystals on March 12, Taobao was criticized for selling fake cosmetics and skincare products.

Liu Minxuan, an undergraduate student at Communication University of China, reported a severe allergic reaction after using a Dove body lotion bought on Taobao. "I used to buy it in Watson and never had any problems," Liu said.

Logistics accidents are also frequently reported problems, especially during peak shopping seasons around November 11 and



December 12. In Beijing, 10 percent of all parcels were lost and 12 percent arrived damaged last November.

In Chaoyang District alone, 3,325 customers received goods that were the wrong size or color and only 527 were allowed to exchange for the correct product.

The Beijing Industrial and Commercial Bureau said it has been unable to investigate or collect evidence related to counterfeiting because all the shops operate through different channels.

Authorities' Efforts

On March 18, the Industrial and Commercial Bureau of Yiwu, Zhengjiang province granted digital business licenses to 10 online shops sell-

ing small gadgets. The business licenses bind the online shops to the tax and quality checking systems, said Wang Jianjun, the manager of the Yiwugo e-commerce platform.

The government of Hangzhou, Zhejiang province released its own temporary e-commerce regulation that requires online shops to have business licenses and allows their goods to be inspected by a third party. It requires online shop managers to respond within seven days to all customer queries. Shop owners caught deleting negative comments can be fined up to 30,000 yuan.

The tax bureau is also getting involved by preparing a new digital tax collection system that matches the digital registration system of the Industrial and Commercial Bureau. JD.com issued 7 million digital tax invoices in north, east and west China this month.

"We intend to promote digital invoices throughout the nation this year," said Liu Qiangdong, CEO of JD.com.

Cai Lei, deputy executive of JD.com, said digital invoices made it possible to record each transaction the moment it is completed. Data on each sale is automatically sent to the National Revenue Archive.

Although the commercial bureau and tax bureau agree about the need to tax e-commerce shops, the tax rate remains under discussion. Lang Yan, a delegate to the National People's Congress, suggested setting a higher tax threshold for online sales to support small businesses.

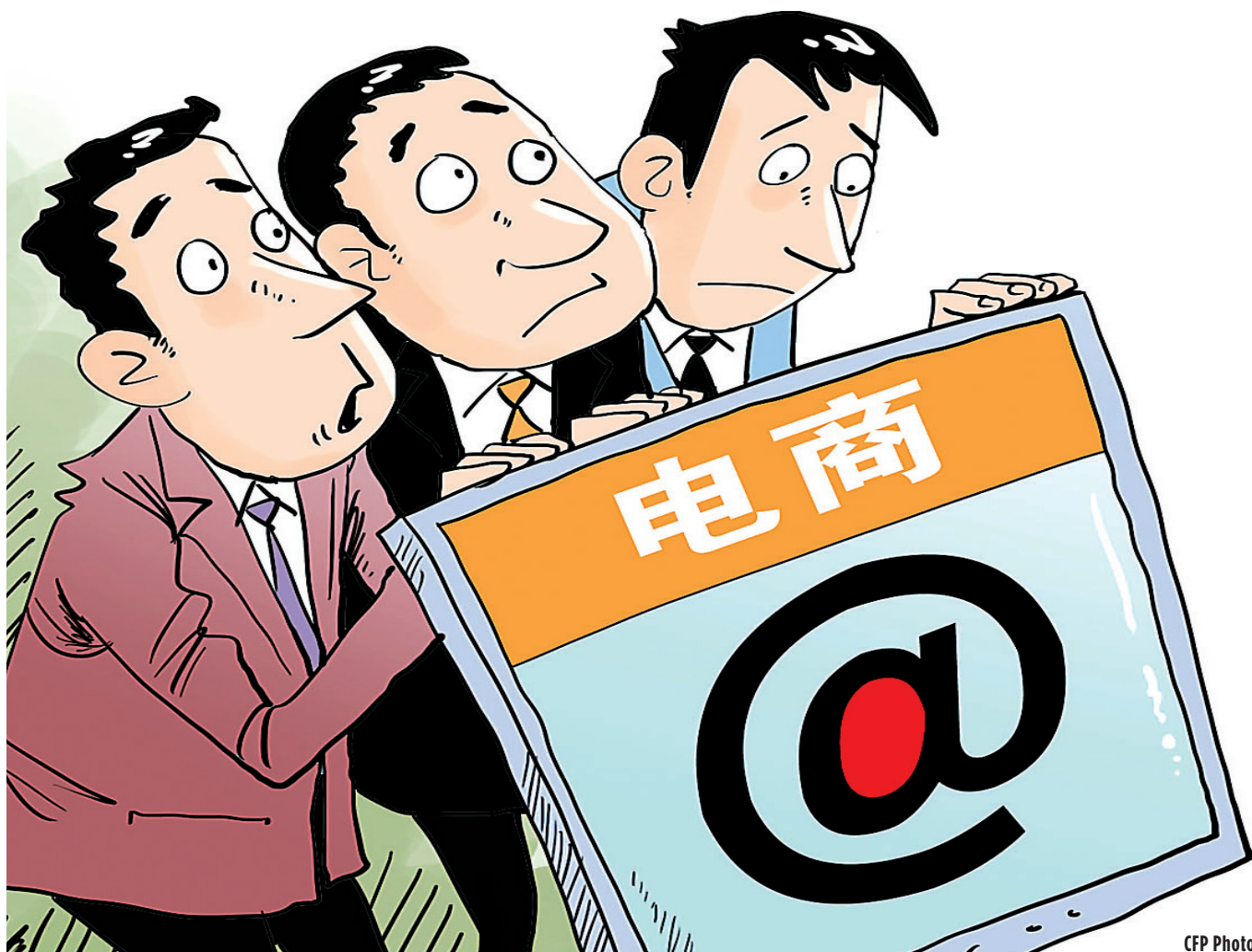
Much to be Done

E-commerce transaction reached a business volume of 13 trillion yuan last year, Xinhua News Agency reported. By contrast, the Top 100 traditional stores generated only 1 trillion yuan in offline trade.

"Only 30 percent of online transactions paid essential tax," said Wang Tian, the CEO of Bubugao. That means the state lost several trillion yuan due to what Wang called "online tax fraud."

Han Yuchen, another delegate to the congress, said leveling tax on e-commerce stores could promote competition between online and offline stores. More importantly, authorities could use some of that revenue to consolidate e-commerce business and pivot away from the current lowest-price business model.

He also called for Alibaba to use its data resources to curate Taobao streams and keep dynamic transaction records that might offer clues about the logistics conditions of each store. This would help storeowners to adjust their mailing strategy and boost efficiency. ■



CFP Photos

EMBA Ed's Decline Due to More Than State Crackdown

BY YANG XIN

The Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA), a financial cornerstone of many Chinese universities' business courses, has fallen out of favor since the central government began a crackdown on officials who sign up for the costly training.

The decree which came down last August declares that "leading cadres" within the Communist Party, the government and state-owned enterprises (SOEs) are barred from business training opportunities unless they have official approval and pay their own way.

Nanjing University is among the hardest hit, with bills now running into the millions of yuan. "As many as 40 percent of our students come from state-owned enterprises. In other words, we lost nearly 40 percent of students since the crackdown," said Han Shunping, associate dean of the School of Business at Nanjing University.

Even Peking University and Tsinghua University have not escaped unscathed. Between 10 and 20 percent of Guanghua's EMBA students have

already withdrawn from the program or will have to do so, and more than 30 percent of students at Tsinghua's School of Economics and Management have been affected.

There is no official data on the downsizing of national EMBA education. "My estimate is that over the last year, China's EMBA education bodies have lost a third of their income," said Mao Jiye, dean of the School of Business at Renmin University of China.

Underlying Causes

Zhang Peng, a financial columnist for Sina and researcher at Beijing Smartstone Institute of Economics, goes deeper to seek the root cause of China's fragile EMBA education in front of the governmental decree.

"As a big component of the nation's anti-corruption campaign, the prevailing EMBA ban is set to break down the long-standing intimate relationship between politics and commerce," Zhang said.

China's economic trends are largely controlled by the government, and executives from commercial ventures were signing up to the programs in order to network with officials and bank favors, he said.

"In this way, the educational field is the epitome of China's tangled political-commercial relationships," he said.

An education in plutocracy seems to no longer be on the agenda for bureaucrats, meaning schools will have to shift their direction to modern business and administration, he said.

More Challenges

"China's EMBA education has been struggling with developmental bottlenecks since 2013," said a dean of one business school who would not be named.

Decreasing EMBA enrollment may be related to the nation's slowing economic development. Other challenges from outside include emerging competitors like the EDP (executive development programs), spontaneous start-up circles, diversified educational media and online education, all of which are eager to squeeze profits from the single market.

On the other hand, deficiencies in the nation's EMBA education cannot be ignored.

An insider who would not be named said EMBA education has been over-commercialized for years. "Schools regard it as a major source of income and set enrollment quotas for recruiters, regardless of the reality

that private entrepreneurs were filling the seats just to sneak into the government's Guanxi Club," he said.

"There were 'enthusiastic' classmates courting government workers and collecting money to set up an investment fund on my first day of class," said an EMBA student who refused to be named.

"Some public-private cooperatively-run EMBA schools make extra money by enticing students to finance certain projects that they don't really understand. As a result, students always find themselves losing money after blind investment," said Lu Qiang, the project executive at Higher Education Academy under Sun Yat-sen University.

Backward schooling methods are worth criticizing as well.

After participating in two university EMBA courses, Yue Qun (pseudonym), a senior executive at a state-owned enterprise, still finds himself confused in the workplace.

"People in my generation experienced the nation's economic transformation in the 1990s and are eager for new management knowledge," he said. Yue took his first business course at Zhongshan University in 1996 and a second one at Tsinghua University in 2010.

"It's shameful that the courses at Tsinghua University were no different from those of Zhongshan University 14 years ago," he said.

Transition Underway

Even with intense criticism and a poor public image, EMBA education is still very much needed.

"Continuing education plays a significant role in one's career path. Business leaders and government officials are possibly able to view things from more profound perspectives after continuing their education through courses such as EMBA," said William W. Kooser, associate dean for global outreach at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

He said the ban on sending officials to EMBA education is 'dangerous.'

Li Zhihong, vice dean of the School of Business Administration at South China University of Technology, said the structure of student sources and their demand for knowledge have been changing over time.

"They have a higher demand for knowledge applicable than before. Most are engineering graduates and have broader interests," he said.

Mao Jiye said EMBA courses in China are too homogenized. "In the future, courses at different universities need to be unique and universities should specialize in certain aspects based on their educational resources," Mao said.

Han Shunping suggested working to

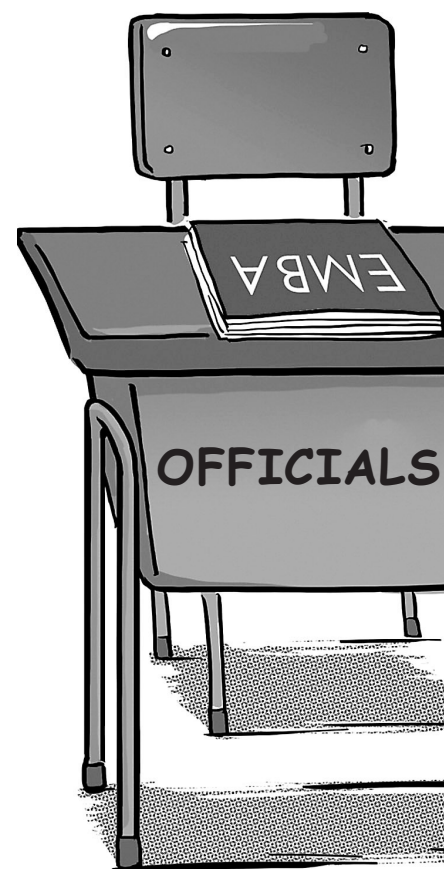
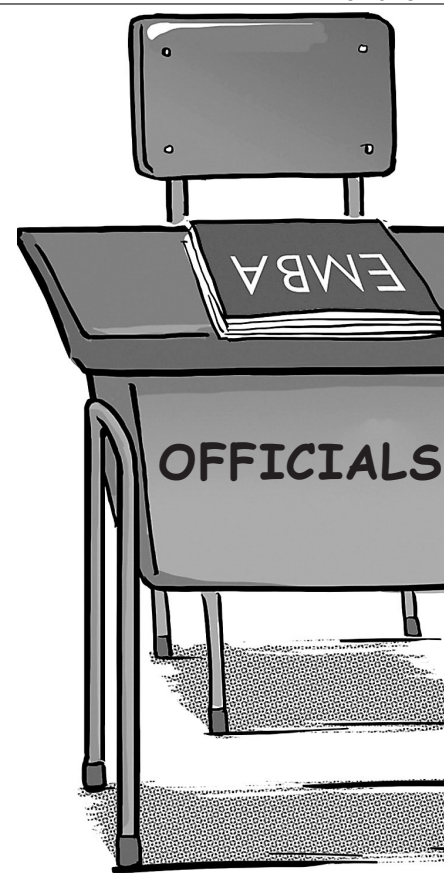


Photo by CFP



expand the market.

"A potential source of students is overseas returnees who are well-educated but lack practical entrepreneurial experiences or insight into the ever-changing domestic market," he said. Nanjing University has started an innovative EMBA program to tie together its alumni resources and corporate with surrounding development zones, he said.

Last December, the Western Business School of China at Southwestern University of Finance and Economics pushed forward its first business transformation class. Unlike traditional EMBA classes, it accepts only 16 students.

"Small class models give each student room to demonstrate his or her thought," said Liu Jie, an assistant president at the Western Business School of China Southwestern University of Finance and Economics. ■

International Voices Vary on AIIB Invitation

BY YANG XIN

The UK intends to become a founding member of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), George Osborne, Chancellor of the Exchequer at the UK Embassy, said on March 12.

AIIB launched in October with the backing of 20 other countries. Once operational, it will support access to finance for infrastructure projects across Asia by utilizing loans, equity investments and guarantees. Supported projects would boost investment across a range of sectors including transportation, energy, telecommunications, agriculture and urban development.

China's wealth and influence have increased a lot in the past decade, but its rising economic importance and power haven't been reflected in existing international institutions, including the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The AIIB may have an important role to play in Asia by putting excess capital to work.

According to a report by *Forbes*, the World Bank and ADB are more focused on poverty reduction and concessional lending than infrastructure investment, and Asia has a huge unmet demand for infrastructure.

In an often-cited 2010 report, ADB found that Asia's developing countries needed to invest \$8 trillion between 2010 and 2020 to meet infrastructure needs. However, the ADB lends only \$10 billion annually for infrastructure.

Theoretically, the AIIB could complement rather than compete with the ADB and World Bank in Asia.

As the first major Western country to apply to become a prospective member of the AIIB, the UK will join discussions later this month with other founding members to hash out the bank's prospective Articles of Agreement and set the governance and accountability arrangements that will underpin AIIB's operating practices.

India, Indonesia and New Zealand have also expressed interest in joining the bank. France, Germany and Italy have agreed to follow UK's lead and join AIIB.

"By the deadline, (we believe) 35 countries or more will become founding members of the bank," Jin Liqun, the bank's interim chief, said on March 22.

But AIIB has seen a frosty reception in most Western countries.

A spokesman for the White House National Security Council said the US had concerns about whether AIIB would have

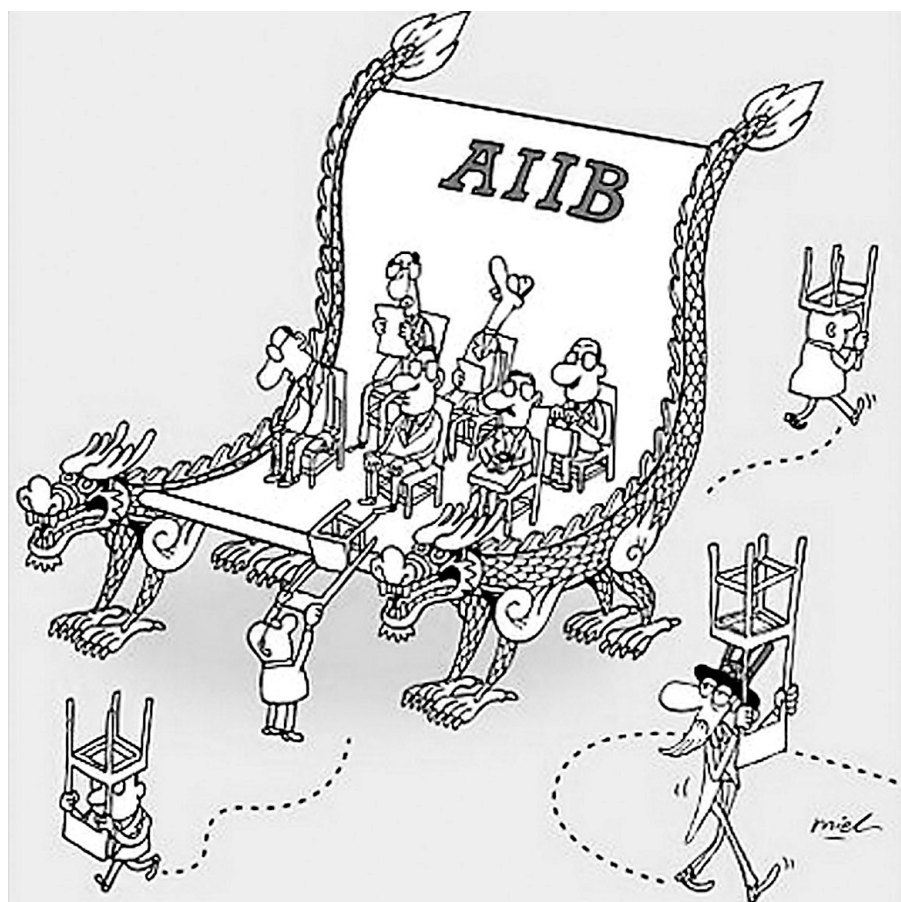


Photo by the Straits Times

sufficiently high standards on governance and environmental and social safeguards.

Australia and South Korea remain notable absentees in the region, although Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott said he would make a final decision on AIIB membership soon. South Korea has said it is still discussing about its possible participation with China and other countries.

Japan is unlikely to join the China-backed bank. But the head of the ADB,

Takehiko Nakao, told media that the two institutions were in discussions and may co-operate.

"We've begun sharing our experience and know-how," Nakao said. "Once the AIIB has actually been established, it's conceivable that we would cooperate."

The Chinese government has stated that nations can join as founding members of the AIIB until March 31. Japan was among those that it invited. ■



Photos by the French Embassy in Beijing

Good France Opens Door for Culinary Diplomacy

BY YANG XIN

Good France brought together more than 1,300 chefs from around the world who have used French culinary knowhow to express their talent and expertise through 1,300 menus.

Inspired by Auguste Escoffier, creator of the Epicurean Dinners initiative in 1912, Good France offered the same menu, the same day, in several countries to bring diners around the world together.

More than 40 French restaurants in China participated in the journey on March 19.

This gastronomic journey illustrated two important aspects of French culture: promoting local specialties and being open to the outside world.

Participants were selected by a committee of international chefs led by Alain Ducasse, a Michelin-starred chef. The meals highlighted French cuisine's capacity for innovation and its core values: sharing and enjoying high-quality food while respecting the principles of environmentally sustainable cuisine.

International chefs offered a full French-style menu: a traditional apéritif, a cold starter, a hot starter, fish and shellfish, meat and poul-

try, a French cheese or cheeseboard, a chocolate dessert and a selection of French wines or digestifs. Beyond that framework, all were free to highlight their own country's culinary traditions and culture.

"This is a perfect demonstration of the French meals listed by UNESCO as a world cultural heritage since 2010," said Laurent Fabius, minister of French Foreign Affairs and International Development.

"It is also a way to make France more attractive as a (tourism) destination," Ducasse said.

"France's heritage is its cuisine and its wines. French dining has been on the UNESCO World Heritage list since 2010, but it is a heritage that should not simply be contemplated, glorified and savored; it is a heritage that should be built upon and showcased," Fabius said.

The common point of this event is the generosity, sharing and love of what is beautiful and tastes good, Ducasse said. "It will be a delightful interlude and an opportunity to celebrate French cuisine worldwide," he said.

More Good France events are being planned for the coming months, Ducasse said. ■

Camping Gains Popularity with Beijing Youth



Finding a way to encourage the all-around development of young Chinese students has been a hot topic in education circles and an ongoing national issue.

The Beijing Youth League launched its own solution to the problem, Beijing Youth Camp International, in 2013. The project is inspired by the “camp education” model popular in the US and many European countries. Camp activities are designed to cultivate youth independence, integrity, patience and other positive characteristics.

Beijing Youth Camp International’s education model has been gaining popularity in the capital, where it is now a common option for children seeking entertainment. For parents, the camp’s educational components make it good choice to ensure their child’s healthy and safe development.

“We’ve been wondering for many years how to make up for the shortcomings in China’s educational system and how to complement school and family education,” said Guo Wenjie, deputy secretary of the Beijing Youth League.

“We will find a way to train Chinese youth to have a strong body, sound personality and excellent skills so they can contribute to society and the country in the future,” he said.

The physical and mental health of Chinese children has been deteriorating in recent decades as parents indulge their only child and schools clamp down on sports out of a concern

for child safety.

Statistics from the Department of Education show that student vitality, grip strength, speed and stamina have been plummeting since 2005. Vital capacity fell 10 percent from 1985 to 2012.

More than 90 percent of Beijing’s high school graduates in 2012 failed their physical exams.

Educators hope that youth camps may be a way to improve the situation.

“Camp activities have been developed in Western countries more than a century and have become an important part of the foreign education system,” Guo said.

The US has about 12,000 campsites, including 7,000 residential campsites. Every year, more than 10 million American children and teens and 1 million grown-ups take part in camp activities.

Statistics show that 64 percent of female CEOs participated in Girl Scout’s and 92 percent of Americans say camp education can help them to face future challenges. In some countries and regions, camp education is a credit course in elementary and secondary school.

After a lengthy preparation, Beijing Youth Camp International opened in Miyun County in March 2013. The campsite is divided into three areas: a service area, a camp area and an amusement area with skiing and paintball.

In the next phase, the camp will add characteristic courses about Chinese culture and history. ■

(By Shu Pengqian)

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